

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

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R 061030Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 782

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT BM

SUBJ: INYA LAKE HOTEL AFFAIR - FURTHER REPERCUSSIONS

1. PRESS ANNOUNCED JANUARY 6 THAT "PERMISSION HAD BEEN GRANTED" FOR TRADE MINISTER U SAN WIN TO RESIGN BECAUSE HE FAILED TO "EXECUTE THE DUTIES...AS REGARDS WESTERN DANCES." THIS CLEARLY REFERS TO THE EPISODE AT INYA LAKE HOTEL DECEMBER 24 WHEN PRESIDENT NE WIN BROKE UP CHRISTMAS EVE DANCE. TRADE MINISTER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRADE CORPORATION 20, WHICH ADMINISTERS THE INYA LAKE, PRESIDENT AND STRAND HOTELS, ALL OF WHICH HAD CHRISTMAS EVE DANCES.

2. GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER CARRIED EDITORIAL DECEMBER 6 ENTITLED "THREAT OF DECADENT COUNTER-CULTURE" WHICH ASSERTED THE "CACOPHONY PRODUCED BY THE STEREO AND MONO MEDIA AND DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE CASSETTE IS VASTLY IN VARIANCE WITH WHAT IS DESIRABLE BY SOCIALIST STANDARDS, THE TWITTERING OR MUMBLING VOCALISTS PARROTING WHAT IS ALIEN TO US AGAINST INSTRUMENTAL OR BAND ACCOMPANIEMENT MORE NAUSEATING THAN ENTERTAINING...MORE AND MORE CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED ON WHAT HARM THE SNOWBALLING STEREO MENACE MIGHT DO... IF...UNCHECKED... THE NEXT MOVE SHOULD BE TO CLAMP DOWN ON COUNTER-CULTURE IN GENERAL AND DECADENT MUSIC IN PARTICULAR WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE PARTY."

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3. IT IS UNUSUAL IN BURMA FOR ACTUAL CAUSE OF RESIGNATION OF

MINISTERS TO BE STATED PUBLICLY. USUALLY A PROFORMA EXCUSE SUCH AS ILL HEALTH IS OFFERED. U SAN WIN IS APPARENTLY BEING MADE THE "GOAT" FOR NE WIN'S CHRISTMAS EVE EXCESSES, PERHAPS IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE "FACE" FOR THE PRESIDENT.

4. GUARDIAN EDITORIAL PROBABLY MARKS EFFORT TO OFFER IDEOLOGICAL

JUSTIFICATION FOR NE WIN'S PERFORMANCE. EDITORIAL MAY ALSO PRESAGE FURTHER CRACKDOWN ON WESTERN CULTURAL INFLUENCE, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.
HOWARTH

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Message Attributes

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